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NEWS & VIEWS

Icelandic Ev. Lutheran Synod of America

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SUNRISE LUTHERAN CAMP

There is something bright and cheering about this designation. Maybe the name takes you back to the first Easter morning, when the women went to the sepulchre to anoint the body of Jesus. "Very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre, at the rising of the sun." May the name always suggest Easter Sunrise, Christian faith.

All readers of The Parish Messenger know that this Sunrise Camp has been established and is sponsored by "Bandalag luterskra kvenna", which might be translated Lutheran

Women's League. It is a federation of the women's congregational societies in our synod. While the League has directed its efforts to a number of useful things, e.g., publishing a very creditable annual magazine, it has given unstintingly of its time to young people. It has conducted summer camps largely devoted to leadership training for Sunday schools and other church work.

Now it has a home of its own, very favorably situated, close to a railroad station, right by a highway, the property reaching right

SUNRISE SERVICE



This service was conducted by Rev. E. H. Sigmar, on the beach of Lake Winnipeg, at the Sunrise Lutheran Camp, early Sunday morning, July 13th.

This picture shows the group present.

down to a splendid Lake Winnipeg beach. Telephone and electric lights are already in the camp. Six well-constructed buildings are now on the site. The grounds have great possibilities for future development.

We may be downcast when we think of the scarcity of ministers in our synod, but in the brief history of the Sunrise Camp, the spirit of optimism has been abundant and strong. Ever since the League decided to buy this property there has been abounding joy in the work, union of effort, and a willingness throughout our synod, to help this project along. Gifts, of course, have been much needed, but gifts have flowed in. Somehow the women found splendid men helpers. The thing has gone forward by leaps and bounds. The women have been willing givers of time and service to build up a useful institution.

Notice also the wide scope of activities planned: Sunday School Rally, camp for young people above confirmation, same for junior boys and junior girls; Ministers' retreat; holiday for mothers with young children; all these arranged at different periods of time.

I, who write these lines, have not had much time to spend at this summer camp. I was there

for the dedication of the Memorial Hall, the assembly hall, also for a meeting of our ministerial association; but what particularly impressed me was the Sunday school teachers' rally. True I was there only for the end of it. I conducted the closing service. I also listened to a discussion at the final business meeting. There was an atmosphere about the meeting. I might almost say there was a vibrating atmosphere in the very room. There was so much joy, willingness to work and consecration to ideals that the whole affair thrilled me. I felt that the sun has risen "with healing in his wings" upon our youth.

Very fittingly this group had a sunrise service on the beach that very Sunday morning.

May the name "Sunrise Camp" always ring true in this fine undertaking and may our youth always listen to the voice of God.

The Women's League enjoys splendid leadership. It would have been perfectly fitting to mention the names of the outstanding leaders, but somehow, just now, I like to think of the League as a unified group, one body marching along the road of Christian usefulness. May God give them abundant guidance and blessing.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' RALLY

By Miss JOSEPHINE OLAFSSON

In June, 1946, a Sunday School Teachers' Rally was held at Sunrise Lutheran Camp, Husavik, under the direction of Rev. Harald Sigmar, with an attendance of 12-15 at the sessions. A committee of three, Gissur Eliasson, Lilja Guttormson and Josephine Olafsson, was chosen to publicize and plan a rally for 1947. This committee sent out letters to Sunday school superintendents, and later sent out letters to Sunday school teachers and ministers. The rally was also advertised in "Logberg" and the "Parish Messenger".

This year's rally, held June 27th to 29th at Sunrise Camp had 42 registered, representing nine Sunday Schools. We feel this increase to be both encouraging and inspiring for our continued efforts in this field.

The first arrivals came Friday evening and at once made themselves at home. The rally was formally opened on Saturday. Mrs. H. G. Henrickson welcomed the rally on behalf of the Lutheran Women's League.

Miss Eleanor Gillstrom, Saskatoon, of the Parish and Church School Board, U.L.C.A., delivered a thought-provoking address on the attributes of a Sunday school teacher. During the discussion that followed it was decided to

send names of young people moving to larger centres to the committee so that they might be contacted by the local Sunday school and made to feel at home.

There was also a discussion on hymns and hymn books for Sunday schools, with the feeling expressed that existing books were not altogether suitable. A committee was chosen to act on the compilation of suitable hymns for a Sunday school hymnal and keeping the matter before the Sunday school teachers. It was decided to organize the Sunday school teachers under the name of the Lutheran Sunday School Teachers' Association, and the committee was entrusted with the task of drawing up a constitution with the help of Rev. Eric Sigmar.

At the program held Saturday evening Rev. Eric Sigmar spoke on Foreign Missions. Musical items from Winnipeg, Gimli and Selkirk were also enjoyed. An inspiring Sunrise service, conducted by Rev. Eric Sigmar, was held on the lake shore on Sunday morning. The feeling of the rally as a whole seemed to be that this was a feature that should be made a part of all Sunday school rallies.

At a business meeting held later in the

morning the committee was re-elected and an advisory board appointed from the various Sunday schools represented: Arborg, Mrs. P. Broadley; Baldur, Mrs. Borga Magnuson; Gardar, Miss Lauga Geir; Gimli, Miss Jorunn Thordarson; Glenboro, Rev. E. Sigmar; Langruth, Mrs. Bjarnarson; Lundar, Miss Pauline Johnson; Selkirk, Mr. Jon Ingaldson; Winnipeg, Mrs. Hart.

Short talks were given by Mrs. Bjarnason, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Gray and Rev. Sigurgeirson. A film on the life of St. Paul was also shown. The rally was fittingly closed by a service conducted by Rev. R. Marteinsson.

This rally was characterized by the interest and enthusiasm shown by those present, and the enjoyment of the camp and its surroundings, not to omit mention of the excellent food served. The early rain in no way dampened the spirits of those attending the rally or lessened the feeling that Sunrise Camp is the ideal spot for such a gathering.



PRAYER

By Mrs. INGIBJORG J. OLAFSSON

(This address was prepared for the Sunday School Teachers' Rally but not delivered, as the author could not be present.)

Anyone who undertakes the responsibility of being a Sunday school teacher realizes that he or she has been entrusted with a work of greatest importance.

An architect and a builder plan and build edifices in which they take great pride. Every detail is attended to: the strong foundation and the structure of the building resting on that foundation.

The physician spends years in training for his profession and as long as he lives he strives to keep up his education and to add to his knowledge. It is his job to add to a person's physical well-being, to help the individual to observe the rules of health and when necessary restore health through means that may cause great suffering for a time.

The public school teacher also spends years in training for her work, and if she is conscientious she is adding to her education as long as she stays in the profession. She realizes the importance of the task entrusted to her: handling the human bundles of possibilities, polishing the rough gems, upholding ideals which may last through life.

But what about the Sunday school teacher? Usually she or he has not had any special training for their work. Often the Sunday

school teaching staff consists of mothers who have not much time to give to study, young people who work five or six days of the week, or men who also have their duties for the rest of the week. And people ask: Can we expect the best results when such is the case?

Yes, we can, provided this important mission is entrusted to the right persons. First of all teachers must realize the importance of the work. It is not that of raising a magnificent structure which may adorn the surroundings for a time but may crumble to the ground, go up in flames or be struck by lightning without warning. Theirs is not that noble task of caring for a person's physical well-being. Man's physical life lasts only three score years and ten, probably, or a little longer at best. Theirs is that wonderful opportunity of helping to direct, to develop the spiritual side. We believe that the soul lives through eternity. You, as Sunday school teachers, have been entrusted with that wonderful task of giving your pupils something that will prepare them for eternity.

You dare not attempt that work without prayer. Pray that you will be directed by the Holy Spirit in this work; pray that you may be given wisdom to handle each one of your pupils as his or her need may require; pray for the class as a whole and for each individual belonging to it. Pray for yourself that you may be made worthy of that greatest of missions: to be a teacher in a Sunday school.

In closing I would say this: We sometimes wonder why our work seems to lack power, why we as teachers do not exert a stronger influence, why the Sunday school work does not bear greater fruit. There are many reasons, my friends; there may be too many half-hearted workers, there may be too many that do not find time even to prepare the lesson, and there may be many other reasons. But I firmly believe that if every Sunday school teacher was a praying teacher, his work would bear wonderful fruit. Then truly our Sunday schools would prove themselves to be a strong foundation for the work of the church in the future. Do not forget the importance of your task as a teacher in a Sunday school, be that school big or small. Do not forget the importance of carefully preparing the lesson for each Sunday. But above all, do not forget to pray about your work: pray for each pupil, for the whole class, for the school and for all Sunday schools. If all our teachers united thus in prayer that was heartfelt and sincere we need not worry about the future of our Sunday school work, for "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

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TEACHING IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Mrs. ELIZABETH H. BJARNARSON

Mr. Chairman, Dear Fellow Sunday School Teachers:

Although I have taught Sunday school for more years than I would like to tell, I do not feel that my experience will help this gathering of Sunday school workers, who have probably had some fundamental training in Sunday school work and have more teaching ability than I have.

However, Sunday school work has always been very close to my heart, and because of that I am very glad to be here.

I feel that one can enter fairly well into problems which arise in one's own Sunday school, but is not so fit perhaps to discuss the problems which are found in a totally different community and environment, although the old Icelandic saying might apply here, "Betur sja augu en auga".

Studying the topics for discussion mentioned in your circular letter I find "Value of the Sunday school" at the top of the list, where it well belongs. The value of the Sunday school in a community is so great that it can never be overestimated. The Sunday school is the church in embryo. There the child first feels the presence of God. At home he is taught his prayers, his morals, proper behaviour and obedience; there he feels the goodness of God through his parents' teaching and through his physical well-being and the happiness of the home.

In Sunday school he feels the very presence of God, where in unison with other children, he sings praises to Him who gave him Jesus, the Christ child, the loving brother, the kind shepherd; Jesus, who gathered the little children to Him and blessed them and made them feel at home with Him. They learn hymns which they never forget, and golden texts, so golden that they shine through their lives until the end, helping them to keep in touch with God.

In Sunday school teaching our aims must be of the highest; we should aim to make our pupils reverent in church and Sunday school, should teach them to take part in the service devoutly and whole-heartedly, aim to make them good Christians, leading others to Christianity and to Christian service. This is the aim of our Sunrise Lutheran Camp, and may God grant that it will succeed.

We must aim to make the Sunday school so interesting and so soul-satisfying that it holds the children and carries them on to a high goal in the church, in the home or in the mission field.

In conducting Sunday school, I think, and I am sure you all agree with me, that it must be conducted in whichever language is used mostly by the children; they need to be able to get the full understanding of the lesson, and so we find that the English language is a *must* in Sunday school. Also the order of service should always be used, acquainting the children with our beautiful Lutheran service. The hymns could be either Icelandic or English or both. I feel very badly about laying our beautiful Icelandic hymns in the discard. Could there ever be lovelier hymns than "O Jesu brodir behti", "O fadir gjor mig litid ljós", "Fadir barnanna", and many more.

As to increasing interest among Sunday school pupils, that is something I think must grow out of constant Sunday school attendance. Few people have an interest in Sunday school work who did not at one time or another attend Sunday school. So, keep your Sunday schools filled and we will not lack for teachers. And I have a firm belief that Sunday school work in our Synod is in the upsweep. We have here, in the program of our Sunrise Lutheran Camp, a Leadership Training Course which turns out young potential Sunday school teachers each year. And I am convinced that we will never lack for Sunday school and church workers while we have this splendid organization, and may God grant that we will always have it with us.

One of our problems in the small parishes is that our young girls and boys, who could carry on church and Sunday school work, leave home for higher education and various positions in the city or far-off fields, and their help is lost, although their heart and interest stay with us. On the other hand we have the older ones who carry on the work for the very love of children and God's holy work.

In regard to creating and stimulating interest among the teachers, I feel that weekly or preferably monthly round-table discussions of the

lessons would be a great help in teaching. There are a great many lessons that need to be handled very carefully, lessons which we sort of slide over, and hope we conveyed something to the class, yet knowing full well that we only left a haze of the lesson in the child's mind. That sort of thing can be discussed, thought out and studied together and more efficient teaching would be ensured.

Here I would like to bring up the matter of children's hymns. I have found that the Parish School Hymnal is deplorably lacking in happy children's hymns, especially when used for junior and mixed classes. The majority of hymns in this book are not suitable for young children. At the last convention of the Synod the matter of translating the loveliest of our Icelandic hymns into English, adding them to a chosen collection of English hymns and printing them for use at English services was discussed. Why could we not do that for our Sunday schools?

Before I close I would like to add a tribute to Rev. Mr. Marteinsson as one of our pioneer Sunday school teachers and leaders. To him I owe largely my deep reverence for church and Sunday school, and I know personally of many who owe their church life to him, through his great Christian leadership. I can well remember, though young at the time, of his efforts and results in New Iceland: Gimli and points north. In the days of the horse and buggy the roads were often so terrible that even the horse had a hard time getting through. And in spite of this and many other hardships Mr. Marteinsson never failed any one. My mother and father told many a tale of Mr. Marteinsson's unselfish devotion to duty.

At one time, on a Sunday in 1901, my grandfather took very ill. We lived on a farm two and one-half miles from town. The roads and weather were worse than they are now after all these rains. My father was away, but somehow my mother sent word to Mr. Marteinsson asking him to come and pray for my "afi", whom she thought was dying. Mr. Marteinsson was preaching a service, but after the service he started off on his call to duty. He was unable to get his horse through the mud, and so he started off walking accompanied by Benedikt Freemanson, one of our pioneer church workers, and arrived at the farm at nine o'clock that night, wet and muddy to their knees. This and many other things he did for his people. They are stories which are seldom heard. Because of his help to me and others, the sun will never set on my great love for him.

Also I would like to pay tribute to Mrs.

Marteinsson, a leading light among the young people, guiding them and helping them in the "Banadalag", a wonderful organization now long dead in most congregations, but with many a star upon its path, and she was one of them.

Another bright star was Mrs. Holmfridur Brynjolfson, mentioned in Mrs. Stephensen's speech, last Tuesday night. She was a wonderful Christian and supported the young people in their project, although far from young herself.

And then dear Mrs. Jon Skardal, one of my first Sunday school teachers, another pioneer church worker who taught us, kept us all in our seats and told us to be good, or else! With her I learned the Icelandic hymns I know and love. Holmfridur Brynjolfson, Ingibjorg Skardal, blessed be their memory.

SILVER BELLS

Things of earth have a spiritual suggestion. Nobody else has ever seen that so well as Jesus; hence his parables—Bells have sound; that is actual fact; but the sound of bells may be so adapted, so increased that they produce music, and music both pleases and suggests. Silver bells suggest something pure, something that seems to elevate pleasure into a higher sphere.

Silver bells have been ringing for many couples in our little synod. I am thinking of two, because I had a connection therewith and also because those couples have a strong connection with the work of our Synod.

On June 8th the silver anniversary of the wedding of Mr. Bjorn and Mrs. Elizabeth Hazeltine Bjornason of Langruth, was celebrated. A large crowd of people came to their home in the afternoon and evening. Rev. R. Marteinsson conducted a brief service and also addressed the silver bridegroom and bride. There was more speech making and singing. A large circle of relatives and other friends presented gifts. All were in a happy mood. Both those people have done much for their church and the community. Mrs. Bjarnason has been teacher in the Sunday school for a long time. She has also been very active in the Sunrise Lutheran Camp. And they have faithfully served their community, he as a merchant, honest and helpful, she as a nurse and almost a doctor to all kinds of people.

On June 30th, silver bells rang for Rev. Sigurdur and Mrs. Ingibjorg Olafsson of Selkirk. In the afternoon the gathering was in their home, the parsonage. There was much speechmaking. The following ministers of our synod spoke: Eylands, Fafnis, Sigmar and Mar-

teinsson, also Rev. Eirikur Brynjolfson from Iceland; two ministers in Selkirk, Thackery and Montgomery. Mr. Jon Ingjaldson spoke and Mr. F. P. Sigurdson gave a poem. There was much music, both solos and community singing. All the organizations and divisions of the church workers brought gifts. All voiced very strongly the esteem in which both are held in the congregation and elsewhere. Both have been very active in the youth work in the Sunrise Camp and in previous camps. Mrs. Olafsson is the president of the Lutheran Women's League of our Synod and Mr. Olafsson is the editor of our "Sameiningin", the oldest religious Icelandic journal in the world.

A KINDLY REQUEST

If I am to submit the complete manuscript for the September issue of "The Parish Messenger" to the printers on Monday, Sept. 1st, it is necessary for me to receive all material not later than Saturday, August 31st. This can be done if we all co-operate. Let none of those who make any contribution to this next issue

fail to send it to me so early that I receive it by that date. This is my request to you. I think every single one of you is going to co-operate.

Yours Sincerely,

R. MARTEINSON,
800 Lipton St., Winnipeg, Man.

STEWARSHIP RALLIES SCHEDULED BY SYNODS

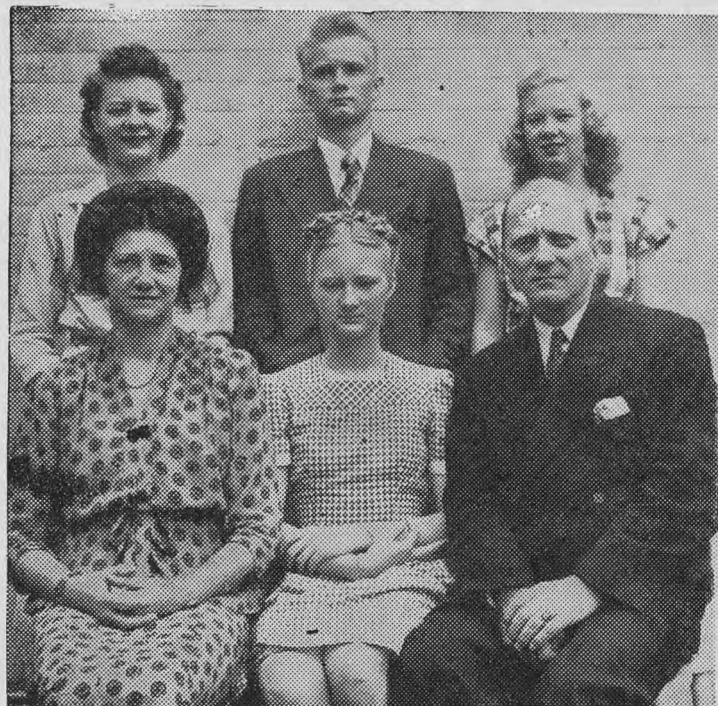
To bring the stewardship message down into the grass roots of the church is the aim of synodical stewardship secretaries as they organize stewardship rallies throughout the conferences. Stewardship rallies, to be addressed by Dr. Clarence C. Stoughton, ULCA stewardship secretary and executive director of the Lutheran Laymen's Movement, have been scheduled for Midwest, Kansas, and Nebraska Synods in April; Iowa, South Carolina, and Indiana Synods in May; Pennsylvania Ministerium and Texas Synods in September-October; and Central Pennsylvania Synod in November.

REV. V. J. EYLANDS AND FAMILY

Have left for a sojourn in Iceland. They left Winnipeg in two groups, by plane, but came together at Gander, Newfoundland. From there they proceeded by plane and arrived in Iceland July 21st. A message of their safe arrival was received very promptly. An exchange of pastors for one year had been arranged. Rev. Eirikur Brynjolfsson, of Ut-skalar, in southern Iceland, serving the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg while Mr. Eylands serves the parish in Iceland. Mr. Brynjolfsson has been here for a short time and has already made a favorable impression. Mr. Eylands will undoubtedly do well in Iceland. His interest in his native country is deep and strong. He spent his earliest years there, and was a grown up man when he came here. His command of English is remarkable.

We wish him and his family thorough satisfaction in their sojourn.

We may hope for contributions to this paper



paper, off and on, as time permits him, while he is away.

A happy stay and a welcome home—coming when the year is over!

ELISABETH HARTIG

On Her Way to Her Mission Work in India.

In the January 1947 number of *Lutheran Woman's Work*, an excellent magazine, published by the Women's Missionary Society of the United Lutheran Church in America, at Philadelphia, Pa., there is an article by Elisabeth Hartig entitled "Eastward Ho". You ask: Who is she? She is a Winnipeg girl. Her father, Rev. Dr. Thomas Hartig, was a Lutheran pastor in Winnipeg, and for a time president of the Manitoba Synod of the U.L.C.A. He is now deceased, but her mother, Mrs. Hartig, is still living in this city. Elisabeth spent a year in our Jon Bjarnason Academy, completing Grade XII there. She was in every way an exemplary student. After she decided in favor of missions, she took intensive training in nursing. She will do much work along that line on the mission field. I met her at the Cleveland Convention, October last. She was then on her way to the foreign field. Two other women went with her to do mission work: Miss Hazel Naugle and Miss Vera Ehlers. In the article which follows, Miss Hartig tells in a very interesting way the story of their travel from New York to Harachi, where they landed on Indian soil.

EASTWARD HO !

Greetings from the skies above the great Arabian Desert! It is a beautiful sunny Tuesday morning. The sky is so clear and cloudless that our 10,000-foot altitude appears as but a skyscraper's height from the ground. While most passengers sleep or lie back to read and relax, let me tell you in equally as leisurely fashion about our big trip from New York to Karachi in four short days.

Friday afternoon, Oct. 25, at 3 p.m. the mighty motors of the Constellation Baltimore aircraft primed to a deafening roar, took us into the skies on the first lap of our journey. Saying farewell to friends and American soil caused the usual tugs upon our heartstrings (including those of the Canadian, even though she was officially branded an "alien" in the U.S.A.!), but we were thrilled to be on our way.

Our first stop was at Gander, Newfoundland, after four hours. Here we had dinner and were grounded for four hours because of bad weather reports from Ireland.

Saturday noon, after a somewhat-rough crossing of the Atlantic (to which the "three musketeers" bowed but did not succumb), we landed on the Emerald Isle at Shannon. Lunch was served to the accompaniment of a delightful Irish brogue. Coming over England, we were greeted by rain and fog and had to circle Heathrow Airport for over an hour before the Baltimore could land safely. We were not at all sorry to hear that our flight was cancelled for twenty-four hours. We were quite happy to be land animals again.

Sunday morning, Oct. 27, we attended services at Westminster Abbey. It was a thrilling experience to worship in this historical cathedral. The marks of age, dignity, and tradition were all around us. Worshiping with the congregation in regal simplicity was Mary.

the Queen Mother.

Sunday afternoon we saw the sights of London—the palace, Trafalgar Square, the Tower of London, and all the rest. We were there to hear Big Ben, the timepiece of the Empire, strike twelve. We saw many bombed-out squares in the harbor section and passed St. Paul's Cathedral, also heavily damaged (behind the main altar).

At 2 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 28, we took off in the Spyways York plane, the Air Courier, a 33-passenger craft, booked entirely with missionaries for India. We took a route directly as the crow flies—London, Marseilles, to Tripoli. Several people were bothered with airsickness, but the "three musketeers" carried on! Castel Benito, Tripoli, is just a spot in the desert. The entire desert country seems drab and discouraging. But the troops carry on smartly in spite of it all. The blue, blue Mediterranean makes good the monotony of sand.

We landed in Cairo, Egypt, at 4.45 p.m. and immediately realized we were in a different world—men in flowing garbs of all colors, turbans, fez, dark skins, and foreign tongues. After usual passport and customs inspection, we were taken to an ultra-modern hotel. While riding through the city, we saw the amazing meeting of East with West, with each maintaining its own identity—limousines, buses, trucks, and trolleys beside donkey carts, handcarts, and masses of people who swarm the streets. Vendors were anxious to sell their wares—but we were anxious to get cleaned up for a change. We were assigned a very lovely corner room with a balcony overlooking palm trees and two open-air moving-picture theatres. From our windows we recognized the name of Cary Grant in one film, and Deanna Durbin and Franchot

Tone in another. (The conversation was in English, with French captions inserted over the film.)

After a delightful dinner (the best since leaving our own American soil), we three, accompanied by two other American missionaries, engaged "Mohammed," a guide recommended by the hotel, to take us to the Sphinx and Pyramids. We went by taxi to a beautiful garden-restaurant and from there on foot (10 minutes). "Mohammed" in turban and flowing black gown, carrying a cane, had us fully convinced that the only way to see this sight is on camel, but at the crucial moment the camels were not available.

At night against the background of these tremendous Pyramids under a star-lit sky, the Sphinx presented a sight we shall never forget. Five thousand years before our very eyes—and the Sphinx so strange and quiet, staring serenely into the east! What a story it tells of passing civilizations, peoples, and times!

Tuesday morning, Oct. 29, we were awakened

at 3.30 a.m. to enplane for the last lap of our flight. The nose of our plane headed into the sky at 6.03 a.m., and our flight is now over the tremendous Arabian Desert. A gentleman on board pointed out the wilderness where the Children of Israel wandered for forty years. Such utterly desolate land—alternately flat, rolling, and mountainous! Only God could provide food and water here. The extent of wasteland is beyond imagination. (Hazel Naugle has dreamed up a scheme whereby the ocean is to be de-salinated, the water used to irrigate this land to make it arable, and the proceeds used for the mission finances!)

Our journey through the skies over lands and oceans has been fascinating and dreamlike. It has been particularly enjoyable because a Pennsylvanian, an Iowan, and a Western Canadian have rubbed shoulders with refreshingly stimulating individuality and with one joyous purpose in their hearts.

Karachi Airport, here we come!

India, here we are!

NOTES from OUR PARISHES

NEWS ITEMS FROM SEATTLE

By MRS. RAY OLASON

Miss Margaret Scheving and Mr. Lyle Hartje were united in marriage in an impressive church ceremony, the evening of June 7th.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Scheving, and his mother is Mrs. Amilda Hartje. After a short wedding trip Mr. and Mrs. Hartje returned to Seattle, where they will make their home. We all join in extending our heartiest congratulations and good wishes.

Members of the former Confirmation Classes were honored the evening of June 1st. Rev. Simundson, who confirmed the first class in 1925, preached the sermon. Dr. Ed. Palmason and Richard Johnson sang solos. Betty Toskey played selections on the flute, and Nancy Mae Warren delivered a reading. Mr. T. Anderson, president of the congregation, spoke briefly and hoped that similar reunions would be made possible each year.

Here is the latest news on the parsonage. To date, a total of over \$6,000 has been raised. In addition to this, a number of various improvements have been made inside the house.

Hannes Kristjanson has returned from Mountain, N.D., where he attended the celebration of his parents' wedding anniversary, Mr.

and Mrs. K. Kristjanson, who had been married 70 years on the 7th of June.

Miss Margaret Sigmar and Mr. Fred Olafson represented our parish at the annual convention of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod at Mountain, N.D. Miss Sigmar was vice-delegate for Hanne-Kristjanson, who was ill at the time.

Mr. and Mrs. Jon Thordarson are parents of a son, Alan Jon, born July 10th. On the same day a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dolan.



ARGYLE PARISH NEWS

The Rev. Eric H. Sigmar was installed as pastor of the four congregations of the Argyle Lutheran Parish at a service in the Grund Church on Sunday, July 6th. The Rev. E. H. Fafnis was in charge of the service as president of the Synod, and he delivered the charge to the pastor. Dr. H. Sigmar performed the act of installation and addressed the congregation. The Rev. Eirikur Brynjolfson, recently here from Iceland, also spoke briefly and brought greetings from Rev. and Mrs. F. Hallgrimson. The new pastor spoke briefly at the close of the service. A parish choir, under the direction of Arni Steinsson, sang two anthems. Almost 300 people attended the service which was beautiful and impressive.

Following the service, lunch was served to those present, in the Grund Hall. Then followed a program of speeches and songs presided over by B. S. Johnson. The presidents of the four congregations, H. Sveinson of Bru, S. A. Anderson of Baldur, B. S. Johnson of Grund, and G. J. Oleson of Glenboro, made brief and warm addresses of welcome to the new minister on behalf of their respective congregations, while G. J. Oleson spoke more extendedly on behalf of the entire parish. His address appears later in this report.

Since the installation service, eight services have been conducted in the parish, two in each of the four congregations. All services have been well attended.

On Saturday, July 19th, Miss Eleanora Heidman of Glenboro was united in marriage to Mr. Joseph Kowalech of Winnipeg. The ceremony took place in the Glenboro Lutheran Church with Pastor Sigmar officiating. Mrs. Kowalech is the second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Heidman of Glenboro.

The pastor conducted funeral services for Mrs. Einar Sigvaldson of Baldur on July 21st. The deceased passed away after a long period of illness in her home four miles northwest of Baldur. She was buried in the Grund cemetery.

Three children of the parish have been brought into the Church through Holy Baptism this month: Jo Anne Winnifred, baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. Dowd of Glenboro, the mother being the former Lauga Bjornson of this community; Arni Raymond, baby son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Taft, the mother being the former Esther Josephson of Glenboro; and Joanne Lynne, baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Pentland of Vancouver, the mother being the former Esther Stefanson of Bru.

* * *

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Delivered by G. J. Oleson, at the reception following the Installation Service.

The words I speak here today will be few and insignificant. I will, however, on behalf of the Glenboro congregation and of the people of the parish and community, extend a hearty welcome to our new minister, the Rev. Eric H. Sigmar.

We rejoice, after a long struggle of two years, that we have reached a haven, and that a victory has been won. We relax as we think of the past two years when our boat was carried hither and thither and we had no oars, and we are thankful because it did not capsize. We are thankful that our work has not been in vain and we welcome our new captain. We are confident now that we have a man at the helm

who will march and guide us to higher levels, mentally and spiritually. Bread we have plenty, for which we owe thanksgiving, but we need spiritual uplifting and training and many things that are essential, in order to attain the highest goal in life, for man does not live by bread alone.

The greatest mission in the world is not to make money, but to serve; serve God and one's fellowmen, whether our sphere be ever so small or ever so large. The greatest men think not of glory and fame; they work diligently and do their duty to God and man. I know that Mr. Sigmar comes here, after years of study and hard work, with these principles well ingrained in his heart. After graduation and ordination he comes here with the sole ambition to serve. And it is up to us, every individual, to respond and co-operate with him in helping to build a healthy Christian and Social order in this community. We expect much from him, but he can't do it alone. God expects us, each and every one to do our duty. We hope Mr. Sigmar will enjoy health and happiness and make progress. And we prophesy that he will in time follow in his father's footsteps as president of the Synod.

It is singular that five of the six presidents of the Icelandic Lutheran Synod have been directly connected with this beautiful and happy community. Dr. Jon Bjarnason, the great leader and first president, was the first in the field to serve this parish. It was then, as we say in Icelandic, "annexia fra Winnipeg". Dr. B. B. Jonsson was raised and educated here. Rev. K. K. Olafson served here for five years; Dr. H. Sigmar was born, raised, educated here; and Rev. E. H. Fafnis, the new president, served here for 15 years, and I think we should take some credit for training him for the presidency. Be that as it may, I am sure I speak for the whole community when I extend to him hearty congratulations in respect of his being chosen president of the Synod. The only president that had no direct connection was the late and honored Rev. Str. Thorlaksson, but he after all has indirect connections, as his daughter is the mother of our new minister, and I am sure she has made a wonderful contribution in moulding his character. On this occasion we all hand to her the best bouquet of roses of our hearts, as we do to the father, Dr. Sigmar, also.

Other ministers that have served this parish are: Rev. H. Pjetursson, Rev. J. J. Clemens, and Rev. Fridrik Hallgrimson, who served longer than any other, over 21 years. These men all made great impressions in the service of the Kingdom of God. Mr. Hallgrimson is now the only one of these three living, and he

is still fresh in the minds of the older generation, and admired by them all. Rev. Eric H. Sigmar follows in the footsteps of many able men, and the task will at times be hard and strenuous, but with faith and understanding he will surmount all obstacles with God's help. And his reward will be great.

It is stated that Henry Clay, the ancient American statesman, said one time these classical words: "I would rather be right than to be president." If spoken with a whole heart these words are wonderful. Yes, if our aim in life was always to do what is right the world would change over night.

The Glenboro congregation, and the parish say: "God bless the new minister and God bless his work. May he grow in spiritual stature and wisdom and in grace in the eyes of God and man.

NOTES FROM VANCOUVER

By Mrs. LILLIAN T. SUMARLIDASON

During the absence of our pastor, Rev. Dr. Sigmar and his wife, there have been no Sunday services, nor any of the regular gatherings of any of the various church units. Dr. Sigmar and his wife are expected back to the city on August 10th, but their son, George, has accepted a position in Glenboro, so will not be with us this coming season. While he will be greatly missed in the choir and with the young people's work, our best wishes follow him in his new home.

Married on June 19th, in Christ Church Cathedral, Gerald Robert Asmundson, of Tyner, Sask., to Hazel Pearl Stangland, by the Rev. Dean Cecil Swanson. The bride, one of the first to enlist in the ranks of the C.W.A.C., saw duty overseas, and on her return was employed in the office of the Shaughnessy military hospital. They plan on making their home in Vancouver, as Mr. Asmundson is employed in the factory of his uncle, Mr. Jon Sigurdson, of the Sigurdson Millworks.

Mr. and Mrs. George Day, and daughter Corinne, of Winnipeg, have been the guests for two weeks at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Einar Haralds.

Mr. Wm. Olson, of Winnipeg, has spent three weeks in Vancouver, the guest of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Montgomery, on West 14th Ave., and also visiting with his daughter who has been attending school during the past year.

Visitors at the Mundi Egilson home, 2530 Seventh Ave. East, included Mr. and Mrs. E. Egilson, their son Albert and his wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Christ, all of Brandon, Man. The party motored through the States, visiting

friends in Point Roberts, and renewing acquaintances at the Blaine Peace Arch picnic on July 27th.

We welcome yet another family to the west coast. Mr. and Mrs. Mike Bjarnason, daughter Barbara, and son Barry, who have moved from Shellbrook, Sask., and will live in their new home in the Knight Road area. Mr. Bjarnason has accepted a position with Hume-Rumble, electrical contractors.

Mrs. Emily Isfelt, 2482 Triumph St., had as her guests Mr. and Mrs. Leo Thordarson, who motored from Melfort, Sask., to visit their many relatives here. Mr. Thordarson has a responsible position as Superintendent of Schools in the Melfort district.

The many friends of Mrs. Holmes Boynton (the former Beatrice Gislason) will be pleased to hear of her husband's appointment as chairman of the Mathematical Department, Northern Michigan College of Education, at Marquette, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Boynton have spent six weeks in Vancouver, in the Kitsilano Apts., while the former attended U.B.C. summer school, gaining further credits in his work. Upon completion of the course, they will motor to their home in New Haven, Conn., to facilitate the transfer to their new home.

Mrs. Bertha Key recently returned from Victoria to her home in Coombes, B.C. She spent a few days in Vancouver, the guest of her nephew and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Larus Hillman, West Seventh, and was also looking up old friends.

Mrs. Gudrun Sigurdson of Selkirk, Man., made a stop-over visit with Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mooney, 95 West 21st Ave., arriving on Monday, July 28th. She is the widow of Mr. John Sigurdson, for many years postmaster at Vidir, Man. Mrs. Sigurdson visited with her son, Baldur, of the Calgary police force; with friends in Cranbrook, B.C.; and also with Mr. and Mrs. Gunnlaugur Holm, now of Steveston, B.C.

Mr. Hugh Solvason has enrolled in a new course under the D.V.A., and is gaining experience in his chosen study by working with the X-ray unit out of Winnipeg.

Mrs. Anne V. Gudmundson, with the civil service in Ottawa, holidayed at the west coast this summer. She was the guest of her late husband's family at points enroute: in Vancouver at the Henry Sumarlidason home; in Hilliers, V.I., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Lee; and in Edmonton with Mrs. T. Wallace, and Thor Gudmundson, her father-in-law.

We offer congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. B. T. H. Marteinsson of 2615 Point Grey Road, on the birth of their third daughter, Katharine Dorothy, at St. Paul's Hospital on June 17th, a

wee sister for Ingunn and Emily.

Miss Dora Peterson was over from Victoria for a few days and was a guest in the Dr. P. B. Guttormson home.

The Thorlaksson family is on holiday for a month at a summer camp near Blaine, Wash. They are anticipating a visit from their nephew, Sub.-Lt. Robt. Thorlaksson, on Monday August 11th, when the British training ship H.M.S. Kenya, enters the harbor at Vancouver.

Deep and sincere sympathy, not only from friends in Vancouver, but also from neighbors in their former home in Manitoba, is expressed to the Arnason family in the death of their beloved daughter Evelyn. Her death occurred July 26th in hospital, after a gallant struggle for life. She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Arnason, 4571 Slocan St. and five sisters and six brothers. Funeral service was held in the Broadway Chapel of Centre and Hanna, Monday July 28th, and interment in Ocean View Burial Park.

Much pleasure was brought to several homes in the city by the visit of Mr. H. J. Lupton, organist and choirmaster of the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg. Mr. Lupton carried fraternal greetings from a sister church while holidaying here. It is of considerable interest that he, though not able to speak the Icelandic language, was not deterred from providing his choir with a splendid anthem in the unknown tongue. We think it is unique and congratulate him for his enterprise.

Mrs. J. Karason, of Seattle, accompanied her son, Mr. Steini Gillis, as far as Vancouver, when he returned to resume his place with the Hudson's Bay Co. in Winnipeg. While in the city she was the guest of her old friend, Mrs. G. Grimson, 241 West 21st.

We wish to offer congratulations to Const. Joe Grimson on his recent promotion to Detective Officer with the plain clothes division of the Vancouver police force.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Kolbeins are happy to follow in imagination their travels to Iceland. Leaving in a new 1947 model car, they will board the boat at New York for England to visit the former home of Mrs. Kolbeins, and then on to Reykjavik, where the family of "Barney" live. We wish them "bon voyage".

One of the highlights in the entertainment world in Vancouver during the summer is the Theatre Under the Stars, held for six weeks in the beautiful setting of Stanley Park. Local talent, mainly, presents musical light operas, to a tremendous crowd of spectators gathered in the open air. Costumes for the spectacular programs are designed and sewn in the city,

and call for much praiseworthy comment. Connected with this part of the production are Mrs. Jonina Johnstone and Mrs. Jonina MacNey, whose names have appeared on the printed folders.

Dr. J. C. Grimson had as a guest his sister, Mrs. Teddy Solomon of Santa Ana, recently when she was returning from a visit to her father, Mr. S. Grimson of Red Deer, Alta.

Mr. J. G. Johannson and his wife are spending some time at the west coast visiting their son Leonard, who is with the B.C.E.R. They took the circle tour on V.I., over the Malahat Drive to Victoria from Nanaimo, and also met a host of old friends at the International Picnic at the Peace Arch, Blaine.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sigurdson entertained at luncheon in honor of Judge Lindal while he was in the city, following his appearance as guest speaker at the Blaine Picnic.

It is estimated that about fifteen hundred people attended the International Peace Arch Picnic held near Blaine, on the boundary on Sunday July 27th. Some two hundred went down from Vancouver. The day, though cloudy, was pleasant, and many a handshake renewed former friendships. Mr. Stefan Eymundson acted as chairman, and in a brief but excellent manner, bade the guests welcome. The Vancouver Choir, under care of Stefan Solvason, added to the music for the day. Perhaps the opening three numbers symbolized the spirit of the day when the three national anthems were sung. It carries a deep significance that many, though born in a distant land, are able to bring the capacity for loyalty and love of homeland to their new homes and are able to meet on an international boundary line in wholesome mutual association.

Soloists included Mrs. Ninna Stevens, Miss Margaret Sigmar, Mr. Tani Bjornson and Mr. E. K. Breidfjord. Also appearing on the program were Mr. Axel Vopnfjord and Mr. Armann Bjornson. The opportunity was given to introduce a few distinguished guests. These included Rev. Eirikur Brynjolfson, who brought greetings from Iceland; Mr. J. G. Johannson, of the Daniel McIntyre High School in Winnipeg; Rev. Arthur S. Hanson, a newly ordained pastor in Blaine, Wash.; and last but not least, Rev. Dr. Haraldur Sigmar, of Vancouver, who brought greetings from the Icelandic Lutheran Synod. The main speaker for the day was His Honor Judge Walter J. Lindal, from Winnipeg. No doubt that many had attended expressly to hear him speak. In his speech he gave a ringing challenge to all of Icelandic birth or inheritance to match the integrity and earnestness of the past in aiding the new cultural growth. He

reviewed the successes of The Icelandic-Canadian, the quarterly publication from Winnipeg, which, though printed in the English

language, is playing an important part in revealing the best achievements of all who claim Icelandic ancestry.

KING CHRISTIAN X. OF DENMARK

The Danish people are mourning the loss of their beloved King. After several years of ill-health death came to Christian 10th on the 20th of April at Amalienborg castle. With him is gone one of the most beloved monarchs of Danish history. King Christian was of the house of Schleswig - Holstein - Soenderborg-Gluecksborg and was born Sept. 26th, 1870. He was a nephew of King Edward 7th and Queen Alexandra of Great Britain. In 1912 he succeeded his father, Frederik 8th, to the throne. During the first world war he succeeded in preserving his country's neutrality; but during the second world war, on April 9th, 1940, German troops crossed the Danish frontiers and occupied all of Denmark. Throughout the following hard and trying years the King stayed with his people and thus became a symbol of passive resistance. Though several times imprisoned in his castle, he always maintained a quiet dignity and never became subservient and never was broken. He refused to endorse the persecution of his Jewish subjects by the Germans. With great pride his people looked to the standard flying from Amalienborg castle at Copenhagen, during the occupation. King Christian saw the Danish army disarmed, his fleet sunk and his police force of 2,211 officers, of which 88 perished, sent to German concentration camps; but he also lived to see the day of liberation. When Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, showered with flowers and small flags, triumphantly entered Copenhagen, he was welcomed by King Christian at Amalienborg. The King took great pleasure in giving his autograph to this most famous soldier.

King Christian had a sensitive conscience. July 12th, 1945, he made it known that on account of his conscience he could not sign any death sentences, meted out to war criminals; neither did he want to have any part in the decision for or against a pardon of such criminals.

The King is deeply mourned by his Queen, Alexandrine from Mecklenburg. She, through countless deeds of personal kindness and charity, has been a good match to his generosity and greatness of heart. Under the German occupation it was courageous Kaj Munk who said of her in one of his Church prayers: "She is the only German who should be permitted to stay in Denmark."

King Christian was a man who went among the people. He knew what they thought and what they hoped for and understood them better than any other king in Danish history. He loved to visit his subjects, travelling by car or in his white yacht, "Danebrog," and was always generously and triumphantly welcomed by all classes of the people of his country. Several times he and his Queen visited my home town, the city of Aabenraa. At one occasion he took a little girl, who had presented him with flowers, up on his horse and rode with her through the crowded streets. At another occasion he and his noble consort visited the modest home of our oldest citizen, being a hundred years old, and presented her with a gift of one hundred crowns. One night during his stay he invited the representatives of our city for dinner on board his yacht.

The 26th of September, the King's birthday, has always been a memorable day for the Danish people, especially so in 1945 and '46. Long before the royal procession was due to arrive from Sorgenfri castle to Amalienborg in Copenhagen, all streets were lined with thousands and thousands of people, and hours after their triumphant arrival these same thousands of loyal subjects thronged the palace grounds and continued to call in unison: "Konge, Konge, kom nu frem, ellers gaar vi aldrig hjem!" "King, o King, come forward now, otherwise we don't go home." Or as they cried at his last birthday: "Vi vil ha' Kongen ud paa Balkonen!" "We want the King on the balcony!" Then the king finally would appear and with tremulous lips voice his thanks to his beloved people.

King Christian was a sincere Christian and a good Lutheran, devoted to his Church. When, during his former sicknesses hospitalization was necessary, he would entrust himself to the care of the deaconesses of the Deaconess Foundation Hospital at Copenhagen. He was, as Bishop Axel Rosendal said of him in a radio address on the occasion of his last birthday, a true symbol of national unity and of Christian Lutheran faith. King Christian the Tenth has gone, but his name will live in great letters in the hearts of the people. May God rest his soul.

—S. F. M. FRIEDRICHSEN,
The Canada Lutheran, May, 1947.